

## Vermont State Board of Education Monthly Report – November 2009

### ***From the Chair***

At its meeting on November 17, 2009, the State Board of Education addressed the following topics:

***Roots of Success: Effective Practices in Vermont Schools*** – Panelists from two of the schools involved in the *Roots of Success: Effective Practices in Vermont Schools* study spoke to the Board regarding their participation in the study, and about the practices they have implemented in their schools to provide opportunities for all students to succeed. Panelists spoke to the importance of high expectations—truly having all staff believe that all students can learn—and a systems approach to school improvement. They responded to questions from Board members about next steps and both principals emphasized the importance of supporting principals to be leaders of school improvement. They discussed the possibility of providing mentoring/coaching for principals during their preparation as well as once they are on the job. These characteristics form the foundation for school effectiveness and are essential to ensuring that all children, regardless of background or socioeconomic status, reach their full potential. The report has been sent to all Vermont school principals and is available online, along with companion documents such as reflection tools and research methodology, at <http://rootsofsuccess.wordpress.com/>. For more information, contact Susan Hayes ([Susan.Hayes@state.vt.us](mailto:Susan.Hayes@state.vt.us)).

**Essex Town Supervisory District Boundary Study** – The Board approved the Commissioner's request to study the advisability of re-grouping the supervisory union/district structure of which the Essex Town Supervisory District. Under Rule 3232 of the *Vermont State Board of Education Manual of Rules and Practices*, a supervisory union or district may not begin recruitment for a new superintendent until notification by the Commissioner that the supervisory union or district is not under State Board consideration for a supervisory union change. The proposed study, conducted by the Department, will be presented to the Board for discussion at its December 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### ***From the Board***

#### **Strategic Planning**

The Board and the Department continue the Strategic Plan development work begun at its June 22-23 planning meeting. 16 V.S.A. §180 requires a strategic plan and that it be reviewed and updated every 5 years (this is the 5<sup>th</sup> year). The strategic plan (the mission, vision, goals,) will 1) reflect current practice and views, 2) assure that all students graduate from high school globally competitive, and 3) integrate the tenets of the Transformation initiative. For more information, contact Brian Vachon ([BrianVachon@comcast.net](mailto:BrianVachon@comcast.net)).

### ***From the Department***

#### **Targeted Level PBS Training for Eligible PBS School Leadership Teams**

School leadership teams that have implemented School-wide PBS with Fidelity are eligible to attend this two and a half day training on the targeted level of PBS. This training will provide the content and facilitation needed to support school teams in preparing for implementation at the targeted level.

*Who should attend?* Participants are limited to PBS leadership teams in schools by recommendation of the State-wide PBS External Coach. These schools will have:

1. Completed school-wide implementation,
2. Received a score of 80/80 or higher on your SET, and
3. Identified a team to work on targeted/tertiary supports.

*Training Dates:*

**March 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 – 3:30, and March 19<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 – 12:00**

Targeted PBS Coordinators will be asked to participate in a brief orientation (TBA) prior to the training.

PBS Targeted Coordinator Orientation – February 16<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 – 12:00

*Fee:* \$165 per person; Please send registration and check to:

Anne Dubie  
University of Vermont, CDCI  
208 Colchester Ave., 307 Mann Hall  
Burlington, Vermont 05405  
Fax: (802) 656-1357

<http://www.uvm.edu/%7Ecdci/best/0910training/Targetedtraining0910.doc>

**Vermont I-Team DECEMBER How-To Workshops – *Literacy for All: How to Enhance Access to Literacy Learning for Students with Complex and Challenging Disabilities* -**

Literacy, in its multiple forms, is highly valued in our society and access to literacy instruction is mandated in the 1997 reauthorization of IDEA. Research indicates a need for teacher training in the area of literacy instruction for students with significant disabilities. The acquisition of literacy skills has a significant impact on quality of life, such as increasing independence, self-esteem, as well as access to a variety of opportunities and activities. Literacy is for everyone and must be designed with each student's unique characteristics and needs in mind. Family Members, General Educators, Special Educators, Related Services Providers, Administrators, Para-educators, Community Services Providers, and anyone interested in supporting students of all ages with challenging and complex disabilities are welcome to attend.

*Presenters:* Mary Ellen Seaver-Reid and Tammy Loomis (Vermont I-Team Educational Consultants), and others.

Dec 08, 2009 South Burlington Doubletree

Dec 11, 2009 Morrisville, Stone Grill

Dec 15, 2009 Woodstock, Woodstock Inn  
(Golf Course)

All Workshops are 8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

*Registration information:*

<http://www.uvm.edu/%7Ecdci/iteam/?Page=../workshops/workshops.html>; Questions? Contact: Louise Lynch ([louise.lynch@uvm.edu](mailto:louise.lynch@uvm.edu); (802-656-7122). For workshop content, contact: Mary Ellen Seaver-Reid ([mary.seaver-reid@uvm.edu](mailto:mary.seaver-reid@uvm.edu)). Individual Registration: \$120; Team (at least two people): \$100; Family members: Free.

**H1N1 Resource for Vermont Schools –**

The Department of Education continues to support the Vermont Department of Health in communicating with schools on H1N1. Due to the frequent and timely nature of H1N1 communications, school administrators are urged to, on a regular basis, visit [www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov) or [www.healthvermont.gov](http://www.healthvermont.gov) for the latest guidance and information, and to work closely

with school nurses on planning for this pandemic. For the latest school dismissal

guidance, as well as information on school-located vaccination clinics, visit [http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm/media/H1N1\\_planning.html](http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm/media/H1N1_planning.html). Contact: Emily Pastore, VDH School Nurse Liaison, at (802) 863-7281 or [EPastor@vdh.state.vt.us](mailto:EPastor@vdh.state.vt.us); Jill Remick at (802) 828-3154 or [jill.remick@state.vt.us](mailto:jill.remick@state.vt.us)

**Supporting Military Kids During Deployment**

– When military personnel are mobilized, their children are in need of special support from local schools and communities. A significant portion of stability in their family system has temporarily disrupted resulting in increased levels of stress and potential separation anxiety. As a result, these military kids are in need of heightened understanding and support for professionals in local school building where they spend a large portion of their day. Fortunately, several resources are available to schools, parents and students at no charge. Go to [http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/mainpubs\\_resources.html#deployment](http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/mainpubs_resources.html#deployment) for a list of resources from the Vermont Family Readiness Program, including contact information by region. Contact: Andrew Hudacs at (802) 828-3892 or [andrew.hudacs@state.vt.us](mailto:andrew.hudacs@state.vt.us)

**American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) –**

Funds provided through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) provide a unique opportunity to jump start school reform and improvement efforts while also saving and creating jobs and stimulating the economy. These one-time resources should be spent in ways most likely to lead to improved results for students, long-term gains in school and school system capacity, and increased productivity and effectiveness. The following link serves as the main clearinghouse for information for Vermont's education community: [http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/recovery\\_act.html](http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/recovery_act.html). For additional information, contact Rae Ann Knopf, (802) 828-5101, or [Rae.Knopf@state.vt.us](mailto:Rae.Knopf@state.vt.us)

**For additional information on upcoming  
Department of Education sponsored events  
for Fall 2009, visit**  
[http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/  
calendar.html](http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/calendar.html). The calendar is updated regularly.

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**For more information on the Vermont State  
Board of Education, visit:**  
[http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/  
mainboard.html](http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/mainboard.html).

**To view approved minutes of SBE meetings:**  
[http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/board/  
schedule.html#approved](http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/board/schedule.html#approved)

**To view State Board of Education's Monthly  
Reports:**  
[http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/board/  
schedule.html#monthly\\_reports](http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/board/schedule.html#monthly_reports)

**2009-2010 State Board of Education Meeting**  
**Dates:** November 17; December 15; January 19;  
February 16; March 16; April TBD; May 18;  
June TBD

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